

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3256

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: ALLEGED TORTURE-MURDER OF DETAINEE IN DAVAO CITY

REF: MANILA 10108

1. SUMMARY: DURING RECENT TRIP TO DAVAO CITY, EMBOFF WAS GIVEN REPORT OF RECENT CASE OF ALLEGED TORTURE-MURDER. REPORT RELATES ALLEGED TORTURE OF DETAINEES DEMETRIO TRIBUNALO, JUAN CASIPONG, FRANCISCO NACUAN, AND CARLOS TORION AT DAVAO CITY PC STOCKADE JUNE 16-18. REPORT FURTHER ALLEGES TRIBUNALO, AFTER UNDERGOING TORTURE, WAS THEN SHOT AND KILLED JUNE 17 BY PC LIEUTENANT MANUEL ADVINCULA. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING RECENT TRIP TO DAVAO CITY, EMBOFF VISITED MINDANAO-SULU PASTORAL SECRETARIAT FOR SOCIAL ACTION (MISS A), THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE CHURCH-SPONSORED NATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR SOCIAL ACTION (NASSA). MISSA OFFICIALS GAVE EMBOFF MIMEOGRAPHED ACCOUNT OF RECENT CASE OF ALLEGED TORTURE-MURDER. COPY OF MISSA REPORT BEING POUCHED EA/PHL. HIGH-LIGHTS FOLLOW.

3. MISSA REPORT APPARENTLY BASED ON ACCOUNT OF ONE JUAN CASIPONG, 61, OF BARRIO KIOTOY, PANABO. ACCORDING TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORT, CASIPONG AND HIS SON-IN-LAW, FRANCISCO NACUAN, 30, WERE ARRESTED BY PC JUNE 14 NEAR SANTA CRUZ, DAVAO DEL SUR. THE TWO WERE BROUGHT TO 54TH PC HEADQUARTERS JUNE 15 AND FOLLOWING DAY TRANSFERRED TO DAVAO CITY PC STOCKADE.

4. LATE EVENING JUNE 16, CASIPONG AND ANOTHER DETAINEE, DEMETRIO TRIBUNABL, WERE BROUGHT TO STOCKADE KITCHEN FOR INTERROGATION BY LIEUTENANT MANUAL ADVINCULA. ADVINCULA

SOUGHT ADMISSION THAT CASIPONG AND TRIBUNALO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MURDER OF ONE SIMEON MALINGIN, A BARRIO COUNCILOR, AS WELL AS OF ADVINCULA'S FATHER, THE BARRIO CAPTAIN OF ORIL. WHEN DETAINEES DENIED CHARGES, THEY WERE TORTURED BY ADVINCULA, WITH ASSISTANCE OF SEVERAL INMATES, CASIPONG WAS PLACED IN WATER-FILLED DRUM, FORCED TO DRINK THREE PITCHERS OF WATER, AND BEATEN WITH RATTAN STICKS AND CHAIN, BUT CONSISTENTLY DENIED ACCUSATIONS. TRIBUNALO, SUBJECTED TO SAME TREATMENT, ADMITTED KILLING ADVINCULA'S FATHER. AFTER CASIPONG AND TRIBUNALO SENT BACK TO CELLS, ONE CARLOS TORION, A FARMER IMPLICATED BY TRIBUNALO, WAS SIMILARLY TORTURED.

5. FOLLOWING NIGHT, CASIPONG, TRIBUNALO, TORION, AND NACUAN WERE INTERROGATED AND TORTURED AGAIN, APPARENTLY TO ELICIT CONFESSION THE OTHER THREE PAID TRIBUNALO TO KILL ADVINCULA'S FATHER. INMATE ASSISTING ADVINCULA SEIZED CARPENTER'S SAW AND BEGAN TO CUT NECK OF CASIPONG, DRAWING BLOOD. AT ONE POINT ADVINCULA PUT PISTOL TO CASIPONG'S EAR, BUT CASIPONG CONTINUED TO DENY CHARGES. THEN TORTURE WAS CONCENTRATED ON TRIBUNALO. HE WAS BEATEN "UNTIL HALF DEAD", THEN BROUGHT BACK TO HIS CELL. TWO GUNSHOTS WERE HEARD, THEN ADVINCULA RETURNED TO KITCHEN AND ANNOUNCED TRIBUNALO DEAD.

6. FOLLOWING MORNING (JUNE 18), CASIPONG, NACUAN, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TORION RELATED TORTURE TO ANOTHER PC OFFICER. ON JUNE 19 CASIPONG AND NACUAN BROUGHT TO HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT. TORION REMAINED IN STOCKADE, BUT WAS PROVIDED MEDICINE.

7. MANILA PRESS MENTIONED THIS INCIDENT JUNE 30 (SEE REFTEL) PRESS ACCOUNTS SAID ADVINCULA ORDERED ARRESTED FOR "ALLEGEDLY TORTURING THREE DETAINEES AND SHOOTING A FOURTH," WITHOUT ANY MENTION THAT TRIBUNALO APPARENTLY DIED AS A RESULT OF SHOOTING.

8. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT MAY BE RECEIVING INQUIRIES ON THIS INCIDENT AS MISSA REPORT WENDS ITS WAY TO THE US THROUGH CHURCH CHANNELS. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT AND REPORT STATUS OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST LT. ADVINCULA.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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